

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

① A flavored and taste-masked pharmaceutical composition comprising a plurality of pharmaceutically acceptable cores, said pharmaceutically acceptable cores comprising etoricoxib, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable cores are coated with a flavored taste-masking coating solution in a one-step coating process, said flavored taste-masking coating solution comprising the following ingredients:

- (a) at least one taste-masking agent and
- (b) at least one sweetening agent or at least one flavoring agent or at least one of both.

2. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the flavored taste-masking coating solution further comprises:

- (a) at least one bulking agent, and
- (b) at least one glidant.

3. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable cores are microspheres.

4. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 wherein the flavored taste-masking coating solution comprises the following ingredients:

- (a) hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose,
- (b) polymethacrylate,
- (c) mannitol,
- (d) aspartame,
- (e) artificial cherry flavor,
- (f) monoglyceride, and
- (g) water.

⑤ A flavored and taste-masked pharmaceutical composition in accordance with Claim 1 comprising a plurality of microspheres, said microspheres comprising etoricoxib, wherein the microspheres are coated with a flavored taste-masking coating solution in a one-step coating process, the flavored taste-masking coating solution comprising the following ingredients:

- (a) hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose,

- (b) polymethacrylate,
(c) mannitol,
(d) aspartame,
(e) artificial cherry flavor,
(f) monoglyceride, and
(g) water.

6. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 wherein the ingredients in the flavored taste-masking solution are present in the following amounts:

Excipient Name	% wt/wt of coating solution
Polymethacrylate	about 15
Hydropropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC)	about 3
Mannitol	about 9
Aspartame	about 1
Artificial Cherry Flavour	about 3
Monoglycerides	about 5
Water	about 65

7. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 prepared by a process comprising:

(1) preparing the flavored taste-masking coating solution by combining the following ingredients:

- (a) at least one taste-masking agent and
(b) at least one sweetening agent or at least one flavoring agent or at least one of both,

(2) coating the pharmaceutical cores with the flavored taste-masking coating solution in a one-step coating process.

8. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein step 1) for preparing the flavored taste-masking coating solution further comprises adding the following ingredients:

- (a) at least one bulking agent, and

(b) at least one glidant.

9. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the pharmaceutical cores are microspheres.

10. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the flavored taste-masking coating solution is prepared by combining the following ingredients:

- (a) hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose,
- (b) polymethacrylate,
- (c) mannitol,
- (d) aspartame,
- (e) artificial cherry flavor,
- (f) monoglyceride, and
- (g) water.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 10 wherein the flavored taste-masking coating solution is prepared as follows:

- (a) dissolving hydropropylmethyl cellulose in deionized water;
- (b) adding polymethacrylate and homogenizing; and
- (c) adding mannitol, aspartame, artificial cherry flavor and monoglyceride and homogenizing.

12. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 11 wherein the ingredients in the flavored taste-masking solution are combined to produce a solution having following amounts:

Excipient Name	% wt/wt of coating solution
Polymethacrylate	about 15
Hydropropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC)	about 3
Mannitol	about 9
Aspartame	about 1
Artificial Cherry Flavour	about 3
Monoglycerides	about 5
Water	about 65

13. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7 wherein the pharmaceutical cores are coated using a fluid bed system.

5 14. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 wherein the pharmaceutical cores are microspheres.

15. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5 prepared by a process comprising:

- 10 (1) preparing the flavored taste-masking coating solution as follows:
- (a) dissolving hydropropylmethyl cellulose in deionized water;
 - (b) adding polymethacrylate and homogenizing; and
 - (c) adding mannitol, aspartame, artificial cherry flavor and monoglyceride and homogenizing; and
- 15 (2) coating the microspheres with the flavored taste-masking coating solution in a one-step coating process.

20 16. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 15 wherein the ingredients in the flavored taste-masking solution are combined to produce a solution having following amounts:

Excipient Name	% wt/wt of coating solution
Polymethacrylate	about 15
Hydropropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC)	about 3
Mannitol	about 9
Aspartame	about 1
Artificial Cherry Flavour	about 3
Monoglycerides	about 5
Water	about 65